

TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO QUALIFY HOMELESS YOUTH AND VETERANS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation that will fix an error and enable homeless veterans and youth to pursue full time education while living in Low Income Housing Tax Credit financed housing.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) have been a crucial foundation to incentivize the building of affordable low income housing. LIHTC housing has been invaluable in providing much needed shelter for those living in poverty or on the streets.

Unfortunately, a provision in the law is having unintended consequences. Currently, a homeless veteran or youth that wishes to pursue full time education must choose between an education and living in LIHTC housing. This is not a choice they should be forced to make, nor is this a policy America has ever supported.

Education is the cornerstone of American excellence and ingenuity and remains the best means to escape poverty. It is critical that we fix this defect in the law, and ensure that our youth are given every opportunity to reach their educational goals.

IN SUPPORT OF WORLD ALZHEIMER'S MONTH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Alzheimer's Association and their efforts to end Alzheimer's disease.

My mother-in-law battled this illness, so my wife and I can speak from experience, and tell you first-hand, the devastating stages of the disease and its effects on family and friends.

This progressive, dementia disorder affects more than 4 million people nationwide and will affect as many as 14 million individuals by 2050.

Currently, there is no cure for Alzheimer's but researchers and organizations like the Alzheimer's Association are working together on treatments and hopefully, one day a cure.

I encourage you all to "GO Purple" to raise awareness and show your support to end Alzheimer's.

HONORING DIANA NYAD'S TRIUMPHANT SWIM FROM CUBA TO KEY WEST

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valiant, devoted woman. At age

64, Diana Nyad navigated the Florida Straits—a treacherous body of water between Cuba and Florida. However, Diana's journey wasn't accomplished by vessel; instead, she swam . . . 110 miles . . . without a shark cage.

Despite several failed attempts at accomplishing her goal, her passion, perseverance, and persistence never faltered. As the first person to accomplish this astonishing feat, Diana's display of tenacity and enterprise is worthy of acclaim.

Ms. Nyad's triumph is a true testament of the human spirit and an embodiment of the "anything is possible" philosophy. Her mantra, "find a way", is one elicited by a true role model.

I commend Ms. Nyad for her achievement, as she serves as an example to us all.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office; the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,482,606,783.04. We've added \$6,111,605,557,869.96 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT NAVID GARSHASB

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Master Sergeant Navid Garshasb who passed away on September 4 after a long battle with brain cancer. Master Sergeant Garshasb was a proud resident of Navarre, Florida where he retired from the United States Air Force after courageously serving our Nation with honor and distinction.

Born in Shiraz, Iran, Master Sergeant Garshasb moved to the United States at the age of 12 and joined the Air Force eight years later. He started his military career as a member of the 834th Civil Engineering Squadron at Hurlburt Field. In the years to come, he would be stationed at bases in Michigan and Louisiana and even served on the Bossier City Police Department Reserve Officer Unit in Louisiana where he was named Reserve Officer of the Year.

Master Sergeant Garshasb realized his true calling when he returned to Hurlburt Field to serve as an Airborne Cryptologic Linguist with the 25th Intelligence Squadron. He used his fluency in six languages to assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, and soon thereafter he was on his way to Afghanistan. In November 2001, after his aircraft crash landed on an embankment in Afghanistan, he helped save the lives

of his fellow crewmembers by using his knowledge of languages native to the region. For his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and the Air Force Sergeants Association William H. Pitsenbarger Heroism Award, which recognizes the heroic acts of an enlisted member who saved a life or prevented serious injury. Master Sergeant Garshasb's actions throughout his career earned him numerous additional awards which further highlight his exemplary service to this Nation, and I am proud that he called Northwest Florida home.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of Master Sergeant Navid Garshasb. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to Master Sergeant Garshasb's wife, Joani; their sons, Shahine and Andrew; and their entire family. He will truly be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

THE FAIRNESS FOR BENEFICIARIES ACT OF 2013

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fairness for Beneficiaries Act of 2013.

Before Medicare beneficiaries can access skilled nursing facility ("SNF") care, they must have a preceding three (3) day inpatient stay at a hospital. Historically, this made sense. The goal was to ensure the use of SNF care was limited to certain circumstances where such care was medically necessary. The relatively arbitrary 3-day requirement was acceptable; medical developments and technology were such that beneficiaries usually would need 3 days of inpatient care prior to accessing SNF care.

I contend that times have changed. First, many Medicare beneficiaries are simply not medically appropriate for inpatient stays; they require direct admission to a SNF. Thus, the 3 day stay requirement imposes a burden—both physical and financial. We know inpatients can often acquire healthcare-associated infections ("HAIs") during their stay at a hospital. The potential for beneficiaries who may have compromised immune systems to acquire an HAI is substantially higher, compared with the rest of the population. One recent estimate projects the annual direct cost of HAIs to United States hospitals at \$28.4 to \$45 billion. Some of this financial burden could be avoided potentially if beneficiaries could bypass the inpatient setting and go directly to a SNF, when a physician certifies that SNF care is appropriate.

There is another reason that this legislation is of critical importance. The use of observation status by physicians has caused a substantial burden for patients. Medicare beneficiaries may go to a SNF thinking that because they had been sitting in a hospital bed for 3 days, that their SNF care would be paid for by Medicare—only to find that this is not the case because 1 or 2 of the days that they spent at the hospital were spent in observation status. Such patients are hit with substantial financial liability time and time again when they access